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No. 233

July 5, 1938

STRONG SOAP AND HOT WATER MAY PREVENT IVY POISONING

Ivy poisoning may often be prevented by washing the hands or other parts of the skin which have been exposed to the plant with strong soap and hot water. If this is done promptly it will often remove the volatile acid oil which the poison ivy plant gives off before the oil has time to penetrate the skin and set up an irritation.

Careless washing may spread the poison to other parts of the body but two or three thorough applications of laundry or kitchen soap containing free alkali followed by rinsing in hot running water should carry off the poison oil before it has time to act. This is a good safety measure for anyone to use as soon as possible after exposure. Give special attention to washing the finger nails and the tender skin between the fingers. Avoid hard scrubbing with a brush, which may rub in the poison.

Thorough washing is also helpful even after the inflammation has started since it helps remove all traces of the poison still on the surface of the skin.

Other simple remedies for ivy poisoning are local applications of cooking soda or Epsom salt, one or two heaping teaspoons to a cup of water.

Solutions of this kind may be applied with light bandages or clean cloths, which should be kept moist and be changed and discarded frequently. Other preventives and remedies for ivy poisoning are described in Farmers' Bulletin 1166, "Poison Ivy and Poison Sumac," of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

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